

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 DRC-01 /120 W

----- 024441

R 210805Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6953

INFO DOD

CINCPAC

COMUSJAPAN

AMCONSUL NAHA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 12254

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR JA

SUBJ: OKINAWA BASE CONSOLIDATION PLAN

REF: COMUSJAPAN 280315Z JUL 73

SUMMARY: MILITARY SERVICES AND COMUSJAPAN HAVE PREPARED FOR EMBASSY'S STUDY PROPOSED OKINAWA BASE CONSOLIDATION PLAN TO SERVE AS BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH GOJ FOR PLAN TO BE APPROVED AT SCC MEETING IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER 1973. EMBASSY APPLAUDS PLAN AS PREPARED AND RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE USE OF PLAN AS BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH GOJ. AT SAME TIME, EMBASSY HAVE REQUESTED COMUSJAPAN AND AFFECTED SERVICES TO LOOK MORE CAREFULLY AT SEVERAL PARTS OF PLAN WHICH SEEM TO EMBASSY TO INVOLVE FURTHER POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR US ON OKINAWA. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT CONFIRMATION ASAP THAT PROPOSED PLAN CAN BE USED AS BASIS FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH GOJ SUBJECT TO LATER WASHINGTON CONCURRENCE AND FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS DURING NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOJ. END SUMMARY.

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1. ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1973 COMUSJAPAN PROVIDED EMBASSY COPIES OF "DRAFT JOINT OKINAWA BASE INCREMENTAL CONSOLIDATION PLAN", WHICH COMUSJAPAN AND COMPONENT SERVICES REQUESTED BE USED AS BASIS FOR CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS WITH GOJ RESPECTING US OKINAWA MILITARY FACILITIES AND AREAS. PLAN IS MODELED CLOSELY ON "MASTER FACILITIES STUDY", BUT CONTAINS SOME VARIATION THEREFROM, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF SOME SUGGESTIONS MADE BY GOJ IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS UNDER AUSPICES OF SECURITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP.

2. PROPOSED PLAN IS ABOUT 150 PAGES OF TEXT AND SUPPORTING MATERIAL. RESUME OF PLAN IS AS FOLLOWS: US WOULD RELEASE OUTRIGHT 19 MISCELLANEOUS PARCELS OF LAND (PARTIAL RELEASES) OF APPROXIMATELY 6,000 ACRES PRESENTLY NOT USED OR UNDER-USED BY US FORCES. FURTHERMORE, USG WOULD RELEASE 29 FACILITIES (TOTAL RELEASES) WITH TOTAL AREA OF 2,500 ACRES. SUCH RELEASES, IF FULLY WORKED OUT WITH GOJ, WOULD RESULT IN REDUCTION OF US FACILITIES ON OKINAWA FROM 77 TO 48 AND REDUCTION IN ACREAGE FROM ABOUT 70,000 TO ABOUT 62,000. HOWEVER, MANY PLANNED PARTIAL AND TOTAL RELEASES OF FACILITIES ARE DEPENDENT UPON SUBSTANTIAL RELOCATIONS OF FACILITIES INTO OTHER FACILITIES AND AREAS ON OKINAWA. SUCH RELOCATIONS AND ATTENDANT CONSTRUCTION BY GOJ WILL BE EXTREMELY COSTLY; AND GOJ, THEREFORE, MAY BE UNWILLING TO AGREE TO CERTAIN OF THE LAND RELEASES PROPOSED BY COMUSJAPAN.

3. IN GENERAL, THE PATTERN OF BASE CONSOLIDATION TO BE EFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED PLAN WOULD BE REMOVAL OF ALL US MILITARY ACTIVITIES (PRINCIPALLY ARMY) FROM SOUTHERN OKINAWA AND THEIR RELOCATION INTO CENTRAL OKINAWA MACHINATO AND SUKIRAN AREAS. WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, THIS GENERAL PATTERN IS APPROPRIATE REACTION TO GROWING PRESSURES OF URBANIZATION AGAINST OUR FACILITIES AND AREAS, PARTICULARLY IN RAPIDLY GROWING AREAS AROUND NAHA CITY. MARINES WOULD FURTHER CONSOLIDATE INTO MORE NORTHERLY MARINE FACILITIES, RELEASING CAMP HAGUE AND IHA CASTLE HOTEL.
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4. MAJOR MOVES CONTEMPLATED BY PLAN INCLUDE NAHA PORT TO REGION OF MACHINATO SERVICE AREA, MACHINATO HOUSING AREA TO VARIOUS OTHER FACILITIES, AND CHINEN SERVICE AREA TO UNSPECIFIED AREA. MAJOR REDUCTIONS IN AREA INCLUDE BOLO POINT (340 ACRES), KADENA AMMUNITION STORAGE AREA (2,300 ACRES), YAKA TRAINING AREA (503 ACRES), MACHINATO HOUSING AREA (421 ACRES), AND CHINEN

AREA (403 ACRES). OTHER TOTAL RELEASES OF FACILITIES
COMBINED WITH REPLACEMENT ELSEWHERE INCLUDE CAMP BOONE,
KADENA HOUSING AREA, AND KUBASAKI SCHOOL.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TOKYO 12254

5. EMBASSY MUCH APPRECIATES OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF
SERVICES AND COMUSJAPAN IN PUTTING TOGETHER PACKAGE
PROPOSAL OF SUCH SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTIONS. THERE ARE,
HOWEVER, TWO AREAS EMBASSY HAS INDICATED TO USFJ IN
WHICH EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ADDITIONAL EXAMINATION.
FIRST, CAMP KUE IS IDENTIFIED AS THE RELOCATION FACILITY
FOR THE KASHIJI ARMY ANNEX, KUBASAKI SCHOOL, PORTION
OF CAMP BOONE, PORTION OF SUNABE ARMY ANNEX, AND PORTION
OF MACHINATO HOUSING AREA. CAMP KUE IS LOCATED IN
CHATAN VILLAGE, 65 PERCENT OF WHICH IS OCCUPIED BY US MILITARY
FACILITIES. CHATAN VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN
ACTIVE AND VOCAL IN ATTRACTING GOJ AND DIET ATTENTION
TO PLIGHT OF CHATAN AND HAVE LAUNCHED STRONG PROGRAM
FOR RELEASES OF FACILITIES WITHIN VILLAGE. GOJ ESPOUSAL
OF CHATAN POINT OF VIEW HAS BEEN EVIDENCED ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS IN FONOFF-EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS, MOST RECENTLY
BY OKAWARA IN DISCUSSION WITH DCM SEPTEMBER 17. UNDER
CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT GOJ WOULD NOT
RPT NOT BE PERMITTED CONSTRUCT PERMANENT REPLACEMENT

FACILITIES IN CAMP KUE AREA; AND EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT
USG SHOULD NOT RPT NOT PROPOSE TO GOJ ANY PLAN IN WHICH

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SUCH CONSTRUCTION WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT ASPECT. TO
REMOVE MILITARY ACTIVITIES FROM ONE AREA OF JAPAN

(E.G., NAHA) TO ANOTHER AREA (E.G., CHATAN) SERVES NO
PURPOSE. SIMILARLY, CERTAIN RELOCATIONS ACCORDING TO
PROPOSED PLAN WOULD BE MADE INTO CAMP MERCY AND HAMBY
AIR FIELD PORTION OF CAMP SUKIRAN. BOTH OF THESE AREAS
ARE HIGHLY DESIRABLE COMMERCIALY AND HIGHLY VISIBLE.
EMBASSY IS REQUESTING THAT SERVICES EXAMINE POSSIBILITY
OF DESIGNING RELOCATIONS INTO OTHER FACILITIES SO THAT
BOTH CAMP MERCY AND HAMBY AIR FIELD AREA CAN BE RELEASED.
SECONDLY, EMBASSY IS REQUESTING COMUSJAPAN TO UNDERTAKE
STUDIES OF ACTIONS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN IN RELATIVELY
NEAR FUTURE TO REDUCE VISIBILITY OF MILITARY FACILITIES
LOCATED IN URBAN AREAS OR ALONG MAJOR HIGHWAYS. SINCE
GOJ CANNOT CARRY ON CONSTRUCTION FOR REPLACEMENT OF
THE MAJOR PART OF OUR FACILITIES PROPOSED FOR RELOCATION
UNTIL AFTER EXPO-75 CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION
RELATED TO JFAP ARE COMPLETED, EVEN IF EXTENSIVE BASE
CONSOLIDATION PLAN IS ADOPTED THIS YEAR, US FACILITIES
ON OKINAWA WILL PRESENT ESSENTIALLY SAME ASPECT DURING
EXPO-75 AS THEY DO NOW. EMBASSY BELIEVES THERE WOULD
BE MUCH TO GAIN BY CERTAIN RELATIVELY SIMPLE, COSMETIC
ADJUSTMENTS IN SOME OF OUR FACILITIES. SUCH ADJUSTMENTS
COULD INCLUDE IMMEDIATE RELEASES OF UNDER-USED PARCELS
FRONTING ON MAJOR HIGHWAYS SO THAT COMERCIAL DEVELOP-
MENT COULD SCREEN OUR FACILITIES BY TIME OF EXPO-75,
SIMPLE LANDSCAPING, AND ADJUSTMENT OF SIGNS, FENCES,
AND OTHER INDICATORS OF US MILITARY PRESENCE. EMBASSY
HOPES THAT COMUSJAPAN AND SERVICES CAN FINISH EXAMINATION
THESE TWO ADDITIONAL AREAS PRIOR TO OPENING OF FORMAL
NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOJ ON PROPOSED PLAN.

6. IN MEANTIME, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S
CONFIRMATION THAT PROPOSED PLAN AS SUMMARIZED ABOVE
CAN SERVE AS BASIS FOR EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS WITH
GOJ WITHIN AD HOC GROUP ESTABLISHED UNDER AUSPICES
OF SECURITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP. PURPOSE OF SUCH
DISCUSSIONS IS TO IDENTIFY POINTS OF MAJOR SIMILARITY
AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH
GOVERNMENTS PRIOR TO AUTHORIZING INITIATION OF FORMAL
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NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN JOINT COMMITTEE. IN CONFIRMING PROPOSED PLAN FOR THIS LIMITED PURPOSE, THEREFORE, DEPARTMENT WOULD RETAIN AUTHORITY TO INSTRUCT AND AUTHORIZE SPECIFIC USG POSITIONS IN LATER, FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS.

7. AS INDICATED REFTEL, TIMING OF PRESENTATION OF THIS COMPLEX BASE CONSOLIDATION PACKAGE IS CRUCIAL TO SUCCESS IN TIME FOR LATE FALL SECURITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. ACCORDINGLY, WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION PROPOSED PROCEDURE ASAP. COMUSJAPAN INFORMS EMBASSY THAT SERVICE COMPONENT COMMANDERS IN HONOLULU ALREADY HAVE CONCURRED IN PROPOSED RELEASES. CONSEQUENTLY, ONLY STATE CLEARANCE IS NEEDED TO PROCEED TO NEXT STEP IN EXPLORATION WITH GOJ.

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